IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A modified cationic polymer prepared by reacting

(a) a water-soluble, polymeric compound containing NH groups and selected from the group consisting of polyalkylenepolyamines, polyamidoamines, polyamidoamines grafted with ethyleneimine and polymers containing vinylamine units with

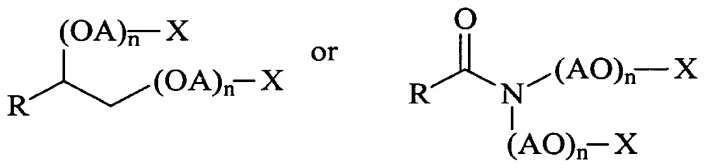
(b) a compound which is at least bifunctional with respect to NH groups and contains at least one alkyl or alkylene radical of at least 8 carbon atoms and, has a functional group selected from the group consisting of a halohydrin, epoxy, chloroformate, isocyanate group and a halogen atom.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The modified cationic polymer as claimed in Claim 1 , wherein the compounds (a) containing NH groups have molar masses of at least 1,000 g/mol.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): [[The]] A modified cationic polymer ~~of Claim 1~~ prepared by reacting

(a) polyethyleneimines, polyamidoamines, polyamidoamines, polyamidoamines grafted with ethyleneimine, polymers containing vinylamine units or mixtures thereof with

(b) at least one compound of the formula



(IV) (V)

where R is a C_8- to C_{30}-alkyl or alkenyl, A is C_2- to C_4-alkylene, n is 0-50 and X is a halohydrin, epoxy, carboxyl, chloroformate or isocyanate group or a halogen atom.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A process for preparing the modified cationic polymer of Claim 1, comprising reacting:

(a) a water-soluble, polymeric compound containing NH groups and selected from the group consisting of polyalkylenepolyamines, polyamidoamines, polyamidoamines grafted with ethyleneimine and polymers containing vinylamine units with

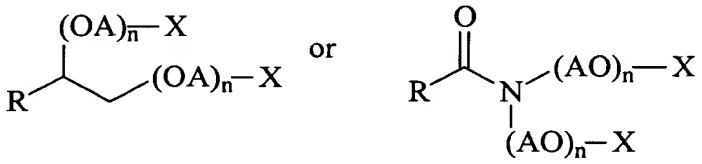
(b) at least one compound which is at least bifunctional with respect to NH groups and contains at least one alkyl or alkylene radical of at least 8 carbon atoms and, as functional group, a halohydrin, epoxy, chloroformate or isocyanate group or a halogen atom.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): [[A]] <u>The</u> process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the reaction of the compounds (a) and (b) is carried out in aqueous solution at from 20 to 100°C with the formation of aqueous solutions or dispersions.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A process for preparing modified cationic polymers comprising reacting:

(a) compounds containing NH groups and selected from the group consisting of polyalkylenepolyamines, polyamidoamines, polyamidoamines, polyamidoamines grafted with ethyleneimine and polymers containing vinylamine units with

(b) at least one compound of the formula

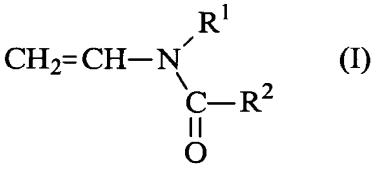


(IV) (V)

wherein R is a C_8- to C_{30}-alkyl or alkenyl, A is C_2- to C_4-alkylene, n is 0-50 and X is a halohydrin, epoxy, carboxyl, chloroformate or isocyanate group or a halogen atom.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The modified cationic polymer of Claim 1, wherein compound (a) is a polymer containing vinylamine units selected from the group consisting of polymers or copolymers of a N-vinylcarboxamide of formula (I):



(I)

hydrolyzed with acids bases or enzymes,

wherein R^1 and R^2 may be identical or different and are each hydrogen, or C_1- to C_6-alkyl.

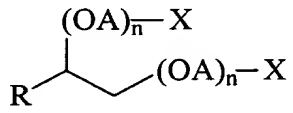
Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The modified cationic polymer of Claim 8, wherein the N-vinylcarboxamide of formula (I) is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of N-vinylformamide, N-vinyl-N-methyl formamide, N-vinylacetamide, N-vinyl-

N-methylacetamide, N-vinyl-N-ethylacetamide, N-vinyl-N-methylpropionamide, and N-vinylpropionamide.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The modified cationic polymer of Claim 8, wherein the compound (a) is a copolymer of a N-vinylcarboxamide of formula (I) and at least one monoethylenically unsaturated monomer, hydrolyzed with acids bases or enzymes.

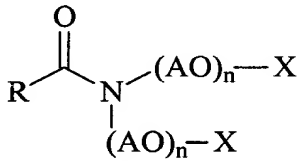
Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The modified cationic polymer of Claim 10, wherein the monoethylenically unsaturated monomer is selected from the group consisting of vinyl esters of saturated carboxylic acids of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, ethylenically unsaturated C_3- to C_6-carboxylic acids, alkali metal and alkaline earth salts of ethylenically unsaturated C_3- to C_6-carboxylic acids, esters of ethylenically unsaturated C_3- to C_6-carboxylic acids, amides of ethylenically unsaturated C_3- to C_6-carboxylic acids, nitriles of ethylenically unsaturated C_3- to C_6-carboxylic acids, polyalkylene glycol esters of ethylenically unsaturated C_3- to C_6-carboxylic acids, esters of ethylenically unsaturated C_3- to C_6-carboxylic acids with amino alcohols and acid salts and quaternary derivatives thereof, N-vinylpyrrolidone and acid salts and quaternary derivatives thereof, N-vinylcaprolactam and acid salts and quaternary derivatives thereof, N-vinylimidazole and acid salts and quaternary derivatives thereof, substituted N-vinylimidazoles and acid salts and quaternary derivatives thereof, N-vinylimidazolines and acid salts and quaternary derivatives thereof, vinylsulfonic acid and alkali metal or ammonium salts thereof, allylsulfonic acid and alkali metal or ammonium salts thereof, methallylsulfonic acid and alkali metal or ammonium salts thereof, and styrenesulfonic acid and alkali metal or ammonium salts thereof.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The modified cationic polymer of Claim 3, wherein the compound (b) has the formula (IV):



(IV)

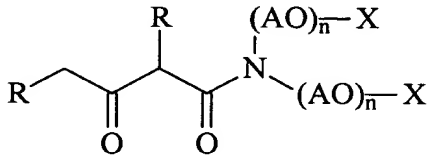
Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The modified cationic polymer of Claim 3, wherein the compound (b) has the formula (V):



(V)

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): ~~The modified cationic polymer of Claim 1, wherein the~~ A modified cationic polymer prepared by reacting

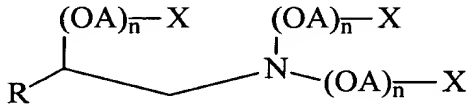
(a) a water-soluble, polymeric compound containing NH groups and selected from the group consisting of polyalkylenepolyamines, polyamidoamines, polyamidoamines grafted with ethyleneimine and polymers containing vinylamine units with a compound (b) which has the formula (VI):



(VI)

and R is C_8- to C_{30}-alkyl or alkenyl, A is C_2- to C_4-alkylene, n is from 0 to 50 and X is a halohydrin, epoxy, ~~carboxy,~~ carboxyl, chloroformate, isocyanate, or halogen.

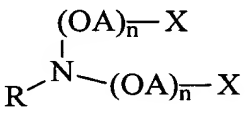
Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The modified cationic polymer of Claim 1, wherein the compound (b) has the formula (VII):



(VII)

and R is C_8- to C_{30}-alkyl or alkenyl, A is C_2- to C_4-alkylene, n is from 0 to 50 and X is a halohydrin, epoxy, ~~carboxy,~~ carboxyl, chloroformate, isocyanate, or halogen.

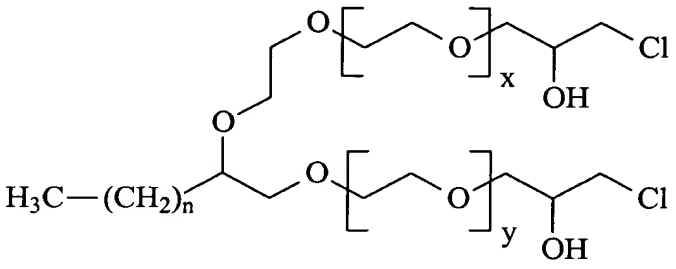
Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The modified cationic polymer of Claim 1, wherein the compound (b) has the formula (VIII):



(VIII)

and R is C_8- to C_{30}-alkyl or alkenyl, A is C_2- to C_4-alkylene, n is from 0 to 50 and X is a halohydrin, epoxy, ~~carboxy,~~ carboxyl, chloroformate, isocyanate, or halogen.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The modified cationic polymer of Claim 1, wherein the compound (b) has the formula (IX):



(IX)

and n is 5-27 and x and y are each 0-40.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A process for preparing the modified cationic polymer of Claim 14 comprising reacting

(a) water-soluble, polymeric compounds containing NH groups and selected from the group consisting of polyalkylenepolyamines, polyamidoamines, polyamidoamines grafted with ethyleneimine and polymers containing vinylamine units with

a compound of formula (VI).

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A process for preparing the modified cationic polymer of Claim 15 comprising reacting

(a) water-soluble, polymeric compounds containing NH groups and selected from the group consisting of polyalkylenepolyamines, polyamidoamines, polyamidoamines grafted with ethyleneimine and polymers containing vinylamine units with

a compound of formula (VII).

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A process for preparing the modified cationic polymer of Claim 16 comprising reacting

(a) water-soluble, polymeric compounds containing NH groups and selected from the group consisting of polyalkylenepolyamines, polyamidoamines, polyamidoamines grafted with ethyleneimine and polymers containing vinylamine units with

a compound of formula (VIII).

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A process for preparing the modified cationic polymer of Claim 17 comprising reacting

(a) water-soluble, polymeric compounds containing NH groups and selected from the group consisting of polyalkylenepolyamines, polyamidoamines, polyamidoamines grafted with ethyleneimine and polymers containing vinylamine units with

a compound of formula (IX).

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 1 has been amended by inserting prefixes --(a)-- and --(b)--, to provide antecedent basis for other claims dependent on Claim 1. Claims 3 and 14 have been amended into independent form. Claims 14, 15 and 16 have each been amended by replacing "carboxy" with --carboxyl-- for purposes of consistency. Finally, Claims 2 and 5 have been amended by replacing "A" with --The--, to be consistent with the other dependent claims.

No new matter is believed to be added by the above amendment. With entry thereof, Claims 1-6 and 8-21 will remain pending.